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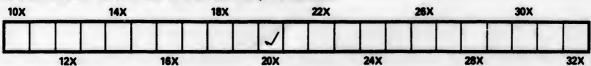
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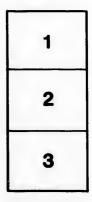
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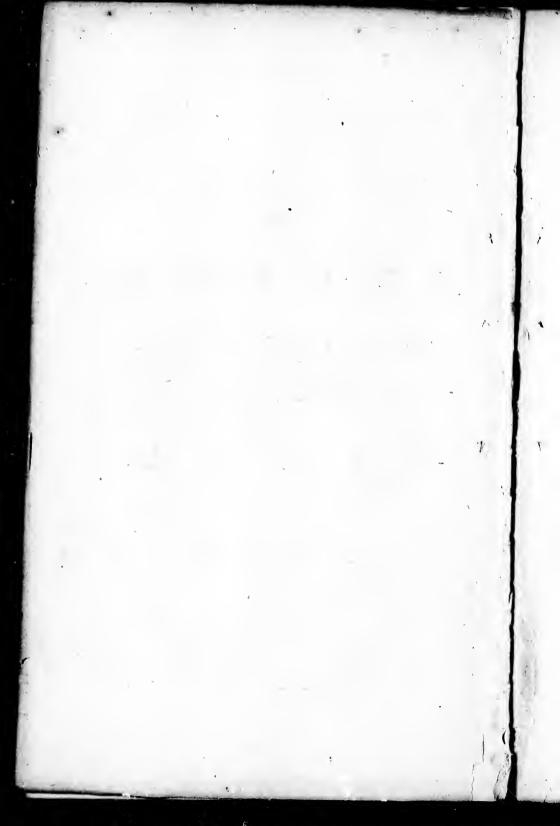
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# SPEECH,

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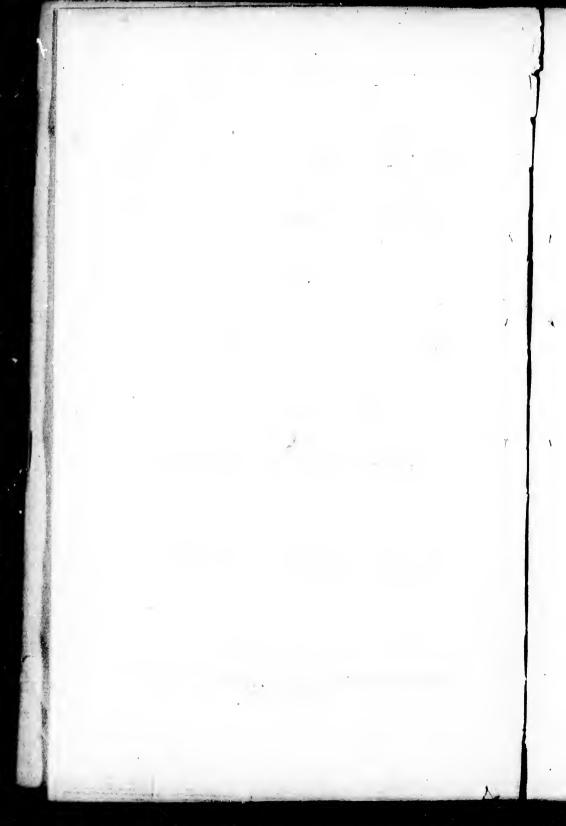
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COLONY OF MASSACHUSETT'S BAY.

L O N D O N: PRINTED FOR T. CADELL, IN THE STRAND. MDCCLXXIV.



## A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

THE Author of the following Speech might juftify his manner of publifhing it by very great authorities. Some of the nobleft pieces of eloquence, the world is in pofferfion of, were not fpoken on the great occasions they were intended to ferve, and feem to have been preferved merely from the high fense that was entertained of their merit.

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The prefent performance appears in public from humbler but jufter motives : from the great national importance of the fubject; from a very warm defire and fome faint hope of ferving our count.y, by fuggefting a few of the ufeful truths which great men are apt to overlook.

The Author has abstained most religiously from personal reflections. He has 4 censured cenfured no man, and therefore hopes he has offended no man. He feels most fenfibly the misfortune of differing from many of those whom he wishes to live and act with; and from some of as much virtue and ability as this kingdom affords. But there are also great authorities on the other fide; and the greatest authority can never perfuade him, that it is better to extort by force, what he thinks may be gained more furely by gentle means.

He looks upon power as a coarfe and mechanical inftrument of government, and holds the ufe of it to be particularly dangerous to the relation that fubfifts between a mother-country and her colonies. In fuch a cafe he doubts whether any point ought to be purfued, which cannot be carried by perfuafion, by the fenfe of a common intereft, and the exercise of a moderate authority.

He thinks it unneceffary to lay thority. down the limits of fovereignty and obedience, and more unneceffary to fight for them. If we can but reftore that mutual regard and confidence, which formerly governed our whole intercourfe with our colonies, particular cafes will eafily provide for them-He acts the part of the trueft felves. patriot in this dangerous crifis, whether he lives at London or at Bofton, who purfues fincerely the most lenient and conciliating measures; and wishes to restore the public peace by fome better method than the flaughter of our fellow-citizens.

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### A SPEECH,



## SPEECH, &c.

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T is of fuch great importance to compole or even to moderate the differitions, which fublift at prefent between our unhappy country and her colonies, that I cannot help endeavouring, from the faint prospect I have of contributing fomething to fo good an end, to overcome the inexpressible reluctance I feel at uttering my thoughts before the most respectable of all audiences.

The true object of all our deliberations on this occasion, which I hope we shall B never never lose fight of, is a full and cordial reconciliation with North America. Now I own, my Lords, I have many doubts whether the terrors and punifhments, we hang out to them at prefent, are the fureft means of producing this reconciliation. Let us at least do this justice to the pcople of North America to own, that we can all remember a time when they were much better friends than at prefent to their mother country. They are neither our natural nor our determined enemies. Before the Stamp Act, we confidered them in the light of as good fubjects as the natives of any county in England.

It is worth while to enquire by what fteps we first gained their affection, and preferved it fo long; and by what conduct we have lately lost it. Such an enquiry may point out the means of restoring peace, and make the use of force unnecessary against a people, whom I cannot yet forbear to consider as our brethren.

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It has always been a moft arduous tafk to govern diftant provinces, with even a tolerable appearance of juffice. The viceroys and governors of other nations are ufually temporary tyrants, who think themfelves obliged to make the most of their time; who not only plunder the people, but carry away their fpoils, and dry up all the fources of commerce and industry. Taxation in their hands, is an unlimited power of oppression: but in whatever hands the power of taxation is lodged, it implies and includes all other powers. Arbitrary taxation is plunder authorifed by law: It is the fupport and the effence of tyranny; and has done more mischief to mankind, than those other three fcourges from heaven, famine, pestilence and the fword. I need not carry your Lordships out of your own knowledge, or out of your own dominions, to make you conceive what mifery this right of taxation is capable of producing in a provincial B 2

vincial government. We need only recollect that our countrymen in India, have in the fpace of five or fix years, in virtue of this right, deftroyed, starved and driven away more inhabitants from Bengal, than are to be found at prefent in all our American Colonies; more than all those formidable numbers which we have been nurfing up for the space of 200 years, with fo much care and fuccefs, to the aftonishment of all Europe. This is no exaggeration, my Lords, but plain matter of fact, collected from the accounts fent over by Mr. Haftings, whole name I mention with honour and veneration. And I muft own. fuch accounts have very much leffened the pleafure I used to feel in thinking myfelf an Englishman. We ought furely not to hold our colonies totally inexcufable for withing to exempt themfelves from a grievance, which has caufed fuch unexampled devastation; and, my Lords, it would be too difgraceful to ourfelves, to try

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try fo cruel an experiment more than once. Let us reflect, that before these innovations were thought of, by following the line of good conduct which had been marked out by our anceftors, we governed North America with mutual benefit to them and ourselves. It was a happy idea, that made us first consider them rather as instruments of commerce than as objects of govern-It was wife and generous to give ment. them the form and the fpirit of our own conflitution; an affembly in which a greater equality of reprefentation has been preferved than at home; and councils and governors, fuch as were adapted to their fituation, tho' they must be acknowledged to be very inferior copies of the dignity of this Houfe, and the Majesty of the Crown.

But what is far more valuable than all the reft, we gave them liberty. We allowed them to use their own judgment in the manage-

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management of their own interest. The idea of taxing them never entered our heads. On the contrary they have experienced our liberality on many public occafions: we have given them bounties to encourage their industry, and have demanded no return but what every flate exacts from its colonies, the advantages of an exclusive commerce, and the regulations that are neceflary to fecure it. We made requifitions to them on great occasions, in the fame manner as our princes formerly afked benevolences of their fubjects; and as nothing was afked but what was visibly for the public good, it was always granted; and they fometimes did more than we expected. The matter of right was neither difputed, nor even confidered. And let us not forget that the people of New England were themfelves, during the laft war, the most forward of all in the national caufe; that every year we voted them a confiderable fum, in acknowledgement of their

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their zeal and their fervices; that in the preceding war, they alone enabled us to make the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, by furnifhing us with the only equivalent for the towns that were taken from our allies in Flanders; and that in times of peace, they alone have taken from us fix times as much of our weollen manufactures, as the whole kingdom of Ireland. Such a colony, my Lords, not only from the juffice, but from the gratitude we owe them, have a right to be heard in their defence; and if their crimes are not of the moft inexpiable kind, I could almoft fay, they have a right to be forgiven.

But in the times we fpeak of, our public intercourfe was carried on with eafe and fatisfaction. We regarded them as our friends and fellow-citizens, and relied as much upon their fidelity as on the inhabitants of our own country. They faw our power with pleafure; for they confidered

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dered it only as their protection. They inherited our laws, our language, and our cuftoms; they preferred our manufactures, and followed our fashions with a partiality, that fecured our exclusive trade with them, more effectually than all the regulations and vigilance of the cuftomhoufe. Had we fuffered them to enrich us a little longer, and to grow a little richer themfelves, their men of fortune, like the West-Indians, would undoubtedly have made this country their place of education and refort. For they looked up to England with reverence and affection, as to the country of their friends and ancestors. They effeemed and they called it their

Now, my Lords, confider with yourfelves what were the chains and ties that united this people to their mother-country, with fo much warmth and affection, at fo amazing

home, and thought of it as the Jews once

thought of the Land of Canaan.

ing a diftance. The colonies of other nations have been difcontented with their treatment, and not without fufficient caufe : always murmuring at their grievances, and fometimes breaking out into acts of rebellion. Our fubjects at home, with all their reasons for fatisfaction, have never been entirely fatisfied. Since the beginning of this century we have had two rebellions, feveral plots and confpiracies; and we ourfelves have been witnefies to the most dangerous exceffes of fedition. But the provinces in North America have engaged in no party, have excited no opposition; they have been utter ftrangers even to the name of Whig and Tory. In all changes, in all revolutions, they have quietly followed the fortunes and fubmitted to the government of England.

Now let me appeal to your Lordships as to men of enlarged and liberal minds, who have been led by your office and rank to C the the fludy of history. Can you find in the long fucceffion of ages, in the whole extent of human affairs, a fingle instance, where diftant provinces have been preferved in fo flourishing a state, and kept at the fame time in fuch due fubjection to their mother country? My Loras, there is no inftance: the cafe never existed before. It is perhaps the most fingular phænomenon in all civil hiftory; and the caufe of it well deferves your ferious confideration. The true caufe is, that a mother country never existed before, who placed her natives and her colonies on the fame equal footing; and joined with them in fairly carrying on one common intereft.

You ought to confider this, my Lords, not as a mere historical fact, but as a most important and invaluable discovery. It enlarges our ideas of the power and energy of good government beyond all former examples; and shews that it can act like gravitation vitation at the greatest distances. It proves to a demonstration that you may have good fubjects in the remotest corners of the earth, if you will but treat them with kindness and equity. If you have any doubts of the truth of this kind of reasoning, the experience we have had of a different kind will entirely remove them.

The good genius of our country had led us to the fimple and happy method of governing freemen, which I have endeavoured to defcribe. Our minifters received it from their predeceffors, and for fome time continued to obferve it; but without knowing its value. At length, prefuming on their own wifdom, and the quiet difpolition of the Americans, they flattered themfelves that we might reap great advantages from their profperity by deftroying the caufe of it. They chofe in an unlucky hour to treat them as other nations have thought fit to treat their colonies; they threatened and they taxed them.

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I do not now enquire whether taxation is matter of right; I only confider it as matter of experiment; for furely the art of government itself is founded on ex-I need not fuggeft what were perience. the confequences of this change of mea-The evils produced by it were fuch fures. as we ftill remember and ftill feel. We fuffered more by our loss of trade with them, than the wealth flowing in from India was able to recompence. The bankruptcy of the East India Company, may be fufficiently accounted for by the rapine abroad and the knavery at home; but it certainly would have been delayed fome years, had we continued our commerce with them in the fingle article of tea. But that and many other branches of trade have been diverted into other channels, and may probably never return intire to their old courfe. But what is worft of all, we have loft their confidence and friendship; we have have ignorantly undermined the most folid foundation of our own power.

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In order to observe the strictest impartiality, it is but just for us to enquire what we have gained by these taxes as well as what we have loft. I am affured that out of all the fums raifed in America the last year but one, if the expences are deducted, which the natives would clfe have discharged themselves, the net revenue paid into the Treasury to go in aid of the finking fund, or to be employed in whatever public fervices parliament shall think fit, is eighty-five pounds. Eighty-five pounds, my Lords, is the whole equivalent, we have received for all the hatred and mischief, and all the infinite loffes this kingdom has fuffered during that year in her disputes with North America. Money that is earned fo dearly as this, ought to be expended with great wifdom and occonomy. My Lords, were you

you to take up but one thousand pounds more from North America upon the fame terms, the nation itself would be a bank-But the most amazing and the most rupt. alarming circumftance is still behind. It is that our cafe is fo incurable, that all this experience has made no impression upon us. And yet, my Lords, if you could but keep these facts, which I have ventured to lay before you, for a few moments in your minds, (fuppofing your right of taxation to be never fo clear) yet I think you must necessarily perceive that it cannot be exercised in any manner that can be advantageous to ourfelves or them. We have not always the wifdom to tax ourfelves with propriety; and I am confident we could never tax a people at that distance, without infinite blunders, and infinite oppression. And to own the truth. my Lords, we are not honeft enough to trust ourselves with the power of shifting our own burthens upon them. Allow me, therefore,

therefore, to conclude, I think, unanfwerably, that the inconvenience and diffrefs we have felt in this change of our conduct, no lefs than the eafe and tranquility we formerly found in the purfuit of it, will force us, if we have any fenfe left, to return to the good old path we trod in fo long, and found it the way of pleafantnefs.

I defire to have it underftood, that I am oppofing no rights that our legiflature may think proper to claim: I am only comparing two different methods of government. By your old rational and generous administration, by treating the Americans as your friends and fellow-citizens, you made them the happiest of human kind; and at the fame time drew from them, by commerce, more clear profit than Spain has drawn from all its mines; and their growing numbers were a daily-increasing addition to your strength. There was no room room for improvement or alteration in fo noble a fystem of policy as this. It was fanctified by time, by experience, by public utility. I will venture to use a bold language, my Lords; I will affert, that if we had uniformly adopted this equitable, administration in all our distant provinces as far as circumstances would admit. it would have placed this country, for ages, at the head of human affairs in every quarter of the world. My Lords, this is no visionary or chimerical doctrine. The idea of governing provinces and colonies by force is visionary and chimerical. 'The experiment has often been tried and it has never fucceeded. It ends infallibly in the ruin of the one country or the other, or in the last degree of wretchedness.

If there is any truth, my Lords, in what I have faid, and I moft firmly believe it all to be true; let me recommend it to you to refume that generous and benevolent 4 fpirit fpirit in the discussion of our differences, which used to be the fource of our union. We certainly did wrong in taxing them: when the Stamp Act was repealed, we did wrong in laying on other taxes, which tended only to keep alive a claim, that was mischievous, impracticable and useles. We acted contrary to our own principles of liberty, and to the generous fentiments of our fovereign, when we defired to have their judges dependent on the crown for their flipends as well as their continuance. It was equally unwife to with to make the governors independent of the people for their falaries. We ought to confider the governors, not as fpies intrusted with the management of our interest, but as the fervants of the people, recommended to them by us. Our ears ought to be open to every complaint against the governors; but we ought not to fuffer the governors to complain of the people. We have taken a different method, to which no finall

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imall part of our difficulties are owing. Our ears have been open to the governors and fhut to the people. This muft neceffarily lead us to countenance the jobbs of interested men, under the pretence of defending the rights of the crown. But the people are certainly the best judges whether they are well governed; and the crown can have no rights inconfistent with the happiness of the people.

Now, my Lords, we ought to do what I have fuggefted, and many things more, out of prudence and juffice, to win their affection, and to do them public fervice. If we have a right to govern them, let us exert it for the true ends of government. But, my Lords, what we ought to do, from motives of reafon and juffice, is much more than is fufficient to bring them to a reafonable accommodation. For thus, as I apprehend, ftands the cafe. They petition for the repeal of an act of parliament, which they they complain of as unjust and oppressive. And there is not a man amongst us, not the warmest friend of administration, who does not fincerely with that act had never been made. In fact, they cally alk for what we wifh to be rid of. Under fuch a difposition of mind, one would imagine there could be no occasion for fleets and armies to bring men to a good understand-But, my Lords, our difficulty lies ing. in the point of honour. We must not let down the dignity of the mother-country; but preferve her fovereignty over all the parts of the British Empire. This language has fomething in it that founds pleafant to the ears of Englishmen, but is otherwife of little weight. For fure, my Lords, there are methods of making reafonable conceffions, and yet without injuring our dignity. Ministers are generally fruitful in expedients to reconcile difficulties of this kind, to escape the embarrassiments of forms, the competitions of dignity and pre-

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precedency; and to let clashing rights fleep, while they transact their business. Now, my Lords, on this occasion can they find no excuse, no pretence, no invention, no happy turn of language, not one colourable argument for doing the greatest fervice, they can ever render to their country ? It must be fomething more than incapacity that makes men barren of expedients at fuch a feafon as this. Do, but for once, remove this impracticable stateliness and dignity, and treat the matter with a little common fenfe and a little good humour, and our reconciliation would not be the work of an But after all, my Lords, if there hour. is any thing mortifying in undoing the errors of our ministers, it is a mortification we ought to fubmit to. If it was unjust to tax them, we ought to repeal it for their fakes; if it was unwife to tax them. we ought to repeal it for our own. A matter fo trivial in itfelf as the three-penny duty upon tea, but which has given caufe to ' ١

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fe to ' to fo much national hatred and reproach, ought not to be fuffered to fubfift an unneceffary day. Must the interest, the commerce and the union of this country and her colonies, be all of them facrificed to fave the credit of one imprudent measure of administration ? I own I cannot comprehend that there is any dignity either in being in the wrong, or in perfifting in it. I have known friendship preferved and affection gained, but I never knew dignity loft, by the candid acknowledgement of an And, my Lords, let me appeal to error. your own experience of a few years backward (I will not mention particulars, becaufe I would pass no censures and revive no unpleafant reflections) but I think every candid minister must own, that administration has fuffered in more inftances than one, both in intereft and credit, by not chufing to give up points, that could not be defended.

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With regard to the people of Bofton, I am free to own that I neither approve of their riots nor their punifhment. And yet if we inflict it as we ought, with a confcioufnefs that we were ourfelves the aggreffors, that we gave the provocation, and that their difobedience is the fruit of our own imprudent and imperious conduct, I think the punifhment cannot rife to any great degree of feverity.

I own my Lords, I have read the report of the Lords Committees of this houfe, with very different fentiments from those with which it was drawn up. It seems to be designed, that we should consider their violent measures and speeches, as so many determined acts of opposition to the fovereignity of England, arising from the malignity of their own hearts. One would think the mother country had been totally silent and passive in the progress of the whole affair. I on the contrary consider the ference of the second secon I

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er fe these violences as the natural effects of fuch measures as ours on the minds of freemen. And this is the most useful point of view, in which government can confider them. In their fituation, a wife man would expect meet with the strongest marks of 0 paffion and imprudence, and be prepared to forgive them. The first and easiest thing to be done is to correct our own errors; and I am confident we fhould find it the most effectual method to correct theirs. At any rate let us put ourfelves in the right; and then if we must contend with North America, we fhall be unanimous at home, and the wife and the moderate there will be our friends. At prefent we force every North American to be our enemy; and the wife and moderate at home, and those immense multitudes, which must foon begin to fuffer by the madnefs of our rulers, will unite to oppofe them. It is a ftrange idea we have taken up, to cure their refentments by increafing

creafing their provocations; to remove the effects of our own ill conduct, by multiplying the inftances of it. But the fpirit of blindnefs and infatuation is gone forth. We are hurrying wildly on without any fixed defign, without any important object. We purfue a vain phantom of unlimited fovereignty, which was not made for man; and reject the folid advantages of a moderate, useful and intelligible authority. That just God, whom we have all fo deeply offended, can hardly inflict a feverer national punifhment, than by committing us to the natural confequences of our own conduct. Indeed, in my opinion a blacker cloud never hung over this Island.

To reafon confiftently with the principles of juffice and national friendfhip, which I have endeavoured to eftablifh, or rather to revive what was eftablifhed by our anceftors, as our wifeft rule of conduct for t

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for the government of America; I must necefiarily difapprove of the Bill before us; for it contradicts every one of them. In our present situation every act of the legiflature, even our acts of feverity ought to be fo many steps towards the reconciliation we wish for. But to change the government of a people, without their confent, is the highest and most arbitrary act of fovereignty, that one nation can exer-The Romans hardly cife over another. ever proceeded to this extremity even over a conquered nation, till its frequent revolts and infurrections had made them deem it incorrigible. The very idea of it, implies a most total abject and flavish dependency in the inferior flate. Recollect that the Americans are men of like paffions with ourfelves, and think how deeply this treatment must affect them. They have the fame veneration for their charters, that we have for our Magna Charta, and they ought in reason to have greater. They

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are the title deeds to all their rights both public and private. What ? my Lords. must these rights never acquire any legal affurance and ftability? Can they derive no force from the peaceable poffession of near two hundred years ? And must the fundamental conftitution of a powerful flate, be for ever fubject to as capricious alterations as you may think fit to make, in the charters of a little mercantile company or the corporation of a borough ? This will undoubtedly furnish matter for a more pernicious debate than has yet been moved. Every other colony will make the cafe its They will complain that their own. rights can never be afcertained; that every thing belonging to them depends upon our arbitrary will; and may think it better to run any hazard, than to fubmit to the violence of their mother country, in a matter in which they can fee neither moderation nor end.

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But let us coolly enquire, what is the reason of this unheard of innovation. Is it to make them peaceable ? My Lords, it will make them mad. Will they be better governed if we introduce this change? Will they be more our friends? The least that fuch a measure can do, is to make them hate us. And would to God, my Lords, we had governed ourfelves with as much æconomy, integrity and prudence as they have done. Let them continue to enjoy the liberty our fathers gave them. Gave them, did I fay? They are coheirs of liberty with ourfelves; and their portion of the inheritance has been much better looked after than Suffer them to enjoy a little longer ours. fhort period of public integrity that and domeftic happiness, which feems to be the portion allotted by Providence to young rifing flates. Inflead of hoping that their constitution may receive improvement from our skill in government, the moft E 2

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most useful with I can form in their favour is, that heaven may long preferve them from our vices and our politicks.

Let me add farther, that to make any changes in their government, without their confent, would be to transgress the wifest rules of policy, and to wound our most important interests. As they increase in numbers and in riches, our comparative strength must lesion. In another age. when our power has begun to lofe fomething of its fuperiority, we fhould be happy if we could fupport our authority by mutual goodwill and the habit of commanding; but chiefly by those original eflablishments, which time and public honour might have rendered inviolable. Our posterity will then have reason to lament that they cannot avail themselves of those treasures of public friendship and confidence which our fathers had wifely hoarded up, and we are throwing away. 'Tis hard, 'tis cruel, befides all our debts and and taxes, and those enormous expences which are multiplying upon us every year, to load our unhappy fons with the hatred and curses of North America. Indeed, my Lords, we are treating posterity very fourvily. We have mortgaged all the lands; we have cut down all the oaks; we are now trampling down the fences, rooting up the feedlings and famplers, and ruining all the refources of another age. We shall fend the next generation into the world, like the wretched heir of a worthless father, without money, credit or friends; with a ftripped, incumbered, and perhaps untenanted effate.

Having fpoke fo largely against the principle of the bill, it is hardly necessary to enter into the merits of it. I shall only obferve, that even if we had the consent of the people to alter their government, it would be unwife to make fuch alterations as these. To give the appointment of the governor

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governor and council to the crown, and the difpofal of all places, even of the judges. and with a power of removing them, to the governor, is evidently calculated with a view to form a ftrong party in our favour. This I know has been done in other colonies; but still this is opening a fource of perpetual difcord, where it is our intereft always to agree. If we mean any thing by this establishment, it is to support the governor and the council against the people i. e. to quarrel with our friends, that we may pleafe their fervants. This fcheme of governing them by a party is not wifely imagined, it is much too premature, and, at all events, must turn to our difadvantage. If it fails, it will only make us contemptible ; if it fucceeds, it will make us odious. It is our interest to take very little part in their domeflic administration of government, but purely to watch over them for their good. We never gained fo much by North America as when we let them govern

vern themfelves, and were content to trade with them and to protect them. One would think, my Lords, there was fome flatute law, prohibiting us, under the fevereft penalties, to profit by experience.

My Lords, I have ventured to lay my thoughts before you, on the greatest national concern that ever came under your deliberation, with as much honefty as you will meet with from abler men, and with a melancholy affurance, that not a word of it will be regarded. And yet, my Lords, with your permiffion, I will wafte one fhort argument more on the fame caufe, one that 1 own I am foud of, and which contains in it, what, I think, must affect every generous mind. My Lords, I look upon North America as the only great nurfery of freemen now left upon the face of the earth. We have feen the liberties of Poland and Sweden fwept away, in the courfe of one year, by treachery and ufurpation. The three

free towns in Germany are like fo many dving sparks, that go out one after another: and which must all be foon extinguished under the destructive greatness of their neighbours. Holland is little more than a great trading company, with luxurious manners, and an exhaufted revenue: with little strength and with lefs spirit. Switzerland alone is free and happy within the narrow inclofure of its rocks and vallies As for the ftate of this country, my Lords, I can only refer myfelf to your own fecret thoughts. I am difposed to think and hope the best of Public Liberty. Were I to defcribe her according to my own ideas at prefent, I fhould fay that fhe has a fickly countenance, but I truft she has a strong conflictution.

But whatever may be our future fate, the greatest glory that attends this country, a greater than any other nation ever acquired,

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is to have formed and nurfed up to fuch a state of happines, those colonies whom we are now fo eager to butcher. We ought to cherish them as the immortal monuments of our public justice and wifdom; as the heirs of our better days, of our old arts and manners, and of our expiring national What work of art, or power, or virtues. public utility has ever equalled the glory of having peopled a continent without guilt or bloodshed, with a multitude of free and happy common-wealths; to have given them the best arts of life and government; and to have fuffered them under the shelter of our authority, to acquire in peace the fkill to use them. In comparison of this, the policy of governing by influence, and even the pride of war and victory are difhone kericks and poor contemptible pageantry.

We feem not to be fenfible of the high and important truft which providence has committed to our charge. The most precious remains of civil liberty, that the world can F now now boaft of, are lodged in our hands; and God forbid that we fhould violate fo facred a depofit. By enflaving your colonies, you not only ruin the peace, the commerce, and the fortunes of both countries; but you extinguifh the faireft hopes, fhut up the laft afylum of mankind. I think, my Lords, without being weakly fuperfitious, that a go. man may hope that heaven will take part againft the execution of a plan which feems big, not only with mifchief, but impicty.

Let us be content with the fpoils and the deftruction of the eaft. If your Lordships can see no impropriety in it, let the plunderer and the oppression still go free. But let not the love of liberty be the only crime you think worthy of punishment. I fear we shall soon make it a part of our natural character, to ruin every thing that has the misfortune to depend upon us.

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No nation has ever before contrived, in fo fhort a fpace of time, without any war or public calamity (unlefs unwife meafures may be fo called) to deftroy fuch ample refources of commerce, wealth and power, as of late were ours, and which, if they had been rightly improved, might have raifed us to a flate of more honourable and more permanent greatnefs than the world has yet feen.

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Let me remind the noble Lords in adminiftration, that before the ftamp act, they had power fufficient to anfwer all the juft ends of government, and they were all compleatly anfwered. If that is the power they want, though we have loft much of it at prefent, a few kind words would recover it all.

But if the tendency of this bill is, as I own it appears to me, to acquire a power of governing them by influence and corruption; in the first place, my Lords, this is not true government, but a fophifticated kind, which counterfeits the appearance, but without the fpirit or virtue of the true : and then, as it tends to debafe their fpirits and corrupt their manners, to deftroy all that is great and refpectable in fo confiderable a part of the human fpecies, and by degrees to gather them together with the reft of the world, under the yoke of univerfal flavery; I think, for thefe reafons, it is the duty of every wife man, of every honeft man, and of every Englishman, by all lawful means, to oppofe it.

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